Public-private partnership for port connectivity

96. SHRI B. J. PANDA:
MS. MABEL REBELLO:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India Inc. has shown interest to work as partners with Railways for port connectivity;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the status of this project in the State of Orissa, indicating the details of such projects that are proposed to be executed in this region in Public-Private Partnership mode?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. India Inc. has shown interest in developing rail connectivity to Dhamra, Kirtania, Paradip ports on the East Coast and Dighi, Dahej, Hazira, Rewas ports on the West Coast.

(c) Currently, work is in progress on the Haridaspur - Paradip new railway line for providing additional connectivity to Paradip Port. This is being implemented by Rail Vikas Nigam Limited through a project specific Special Purpose Vehicle.

Construction of over/under rail bridges in Punjab

97. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals for constructions of over/under rail bridges sought by Punjab Government and local bodies etc. in the State, still pending for clearance; and

(b) the number out of them likely to be cleared during 2009-10 with the likely period to be taken for their completion in each case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) In all 22 proposals were received out of which 17 are on cost sharing basis & remaining 5 on deposit terms from Punjab Government.

(b) The works are taken as sanctioned only after passing of Railway Budget by Parliament. In case of cost sharing works, Railways construct bridge proper across tracks and approaches are constructed by State Road authority. Hence completion depends upon completion of both side's works. Railways generally complete their portion ahead of approaches work or simultaneously with it. For deposit works execution is taken up after deposition of cost by State Govt. Approximately 3 years are taken in completion of works after commencement of construction work.

Maintenance of stations and trains in Bihar

98. SHRI SABIR ALI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that maintenance of stations and trains in Bihar is not up to the mark;

(b) the details of surprise inspections carried out by senior officers during the last six months in Bihar and the results thereof;

(c) the remedial measures taken; and

(d) by when those shortcomings would be rectified?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Maintenance of the stations and trains on Indian Railways including those in Bihar State is a continuous process. Inspections including surprise inspections are done on regular basis by Divisional and Headquarters officers under extant instructions. Deficiencies noted during the inspections are complied by the concerned officials as early as possible through departmental/ contractual agencies. Wherever considered necessary, upgradation works are sanctioned through regular Works Programme of Railways. Damage and pilferage of coach fittings, that some time happen during run, are made good during periodical maintenance.

Night vision goggles and cameras

99. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the result of the experiment of 'night-vision goggles and cameras' to make drivers see signals and tracks in zero-visibility conditions;

(b) what is the envisaged degree of reliability regarding 'Image Amplification' technique, which is innovative in nature; and

(c) whether it is Railways' own indigenous technique or it is being imported?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No such experiment with night vision goggles and cameras to make the drivers see signals and track in zero visibility conditions has been made.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Withdrawal of exemption of import of TMT

100. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI;
Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has withdrawn the exemption of import of TMT which provides relief to domestic manufacturers of the items used for the construction sector;

(b) if so, whether steel companies ramp up output as demand rises;

(c) if so, whether the Steel Authority of India Ltd. has taken the slow down of steel seriously and has pointed out that Government needs to do more to see that the steel industry remains in shape;

(d) if so, whether action taken so far indicate that Government has not appreciated the depth of the problem; and

(e) if so, the measures Government is considering to help the steel industry?